



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MAY 5, 2008

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Foundation President Paul Lanning Addresses Community College Fund-raising at Council for Resource Development Conference

LAS VEGAS, NV—Dr. Paul Lanning, President and CEO of the Foundation for California Community Colleges, addressed community college fund-raisers during a keynote presentation last week at the Council for Resource Development's Region IX Conference.

In his presentation, Lanning focused on the need for community colleges to enhance their fund-raising efforts, to supplement public funding with private philanthropic dollars and create more sustainable budgets. He also provided suggestions for how community colleges can bolster such efforts by increasing professional fund-raising staff and reaching out to alumni. His talk comes as California and other states are grappling with the challenges of proposed budget cuts to higher education.

“The fact remains that community colleges are behind the times when it comes to securing private dollars for our institutions,” he said during his presentation, later adding, “The momentum exists for community colleges to take advantage of the growing public awareness of our challenges, opportunities, and the tremendous benefit we provide to America's society and workforce.”

Lanning has been President and CEO of the Foundation since August 2007. His background includes experience in higher education and the community colleges, as well as entrepreneurial roles in the private sector. Prior to joining the Foundation, he was the Assistant Vice President for University Advancement for the University of the Pacific, where he played a key role in development and fundraising. Lanning holds a doctorate of education in education administration and leadership from the University of the Pacific, in addition to a master's degree in sport management from the University of Massachusetts and a bachelor's in political science from the University of California, San Diego.

The Council for Resource Development (CRD), an affiliate of the American Association of Community Colleges, is the only professional organization concerned exclusively with fundraising for two-year colleges. Through education, advocacy, and mentoring, CRD supports professionals and develops leaders engaged in community college resource development.

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The Foundation for California Community Colleges is the official auxiliary to the California Community Colleges' Board of Governors, Chancellor, and System Office. The Foundation's mission is to benefit, support, and enhance the missions of the California Community College system, the largest higher education system in the nation. Incorporated in 1998, the Foundation works with Community Colleges and partner organizations to manage donations, grants, programs, and services that drive excellence in education while saving millions of dollars for colleges each year. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit corporation and receives no direct state or public support. *For more information, visit www.foundationccc.org*